

FEP Annual General Meeting

The FEP AGM will be held on **Saturday 9th August 2014** commencing at 9:30am with Rob Ashdown who will be our guest speaker. Robert will present a slide show featuring **Australia's wildlife and spectacular views of our country.**

We will also carry out the election of new Office-Bearers. Positions include: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, other member and the non committee position of newsletter editor. To nominate someone for a position, info & forms will be sent to FEP members. The AGM will be at the Rangeville Scout Hall, 2 Heller Street, Rangeville, adjacent to Picnic Point Reserve.

We will have morning tea available and we request members and guests bring a plate.

Families and friends are welcome.

Youth Leading the World

OzGreen Youth Leading the World (YLTW) Congress is coming to Toowoomba in September 2014. Youth Leading the World is a three-day intensive process with youth which explore local and global issues of sustainability, measure and understand their own eco-footprint and work on action plans to make changes in their lives, schools and communities.

This three-day environmental leadership event teaches young people to think for themselves, face up to global challenges and become positively involved in making real changes. YLTW in 2014 is set to run in 150 locations around the world and this is your schools chance to be a part of it. The Toowoomba congress will be 15th – 17th September (Monday-Wednesday) 8am-4pm.

To register contact **Shelley Purser**

PO Box 6243, Toowoomba, 4350

Ph: 4637 6200 Fax: 4632 8062

shelleyp@qmdc.org.au

Committee Meetings

FEP members are invited to attend the committee meetings. Meetings are held on the last Friday of every second month.

The **next meeting is scheduled for Friday 25th July** from 1pm at the TRC Parks and Gardens office southwest corner of Stephen Street & Anzac Avenue.

Parkcare Groups

Parkcare groups are volunteers carrying out bush rehabilitation in our local bushland parks.



Would you like to get involved?

Duggan Park (First Saturday from 8am)
(Leslie & Collier Streets, Rangeville)

(Contact Rod Spalding 0418 710 232)

Redwood Park (Each Mon & Thu)
(Plus 2nd & 4th Saturday each month)
(Warrego Highway below the saddle)

This group is active each Monday and Thursday plus 2nd & 4th Saturday from 8:30am.

Access to the park is through the bottom car park on the down section of the Toowoomba range crossing, on the left just after the first 100km speed sign.

(Contact Hugh Krenske info@fep.org.au)

(or call Hugh 0418 748 282 or 07 4635 1758)

Hartmann Bushland Reserve
(Cnr Alderley St & Rowbotham St)
(Wednesday from 7:30am each week)
(Plus 3rd Saturday each month from 9am)

(Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077)

(glukes@bigpond.com)

Nielsen Park (Colman Drv off Mackenzie St)
(1st Saturday each month from 9am - 12)
(Plus 3rd Sunday of the month from 2pm)

Please note that the container has been relocated from Tarlington Street to the western end of Colman Drive. (Please call if lost.)

(Contact Rob Brodribb 0407 124 863)

(rwbrodribb@ozemail.com.au)

Panorama Crescent Park
(1st & 3rd Saturday each month from 3pm)

We would like to get more Prince Henry Heights residents active carrying out bush rehabilitation activities each month.

Pedestrian access is down the laneway between 4 & 8 Panorama Cr, Prince Henry Heights.

(Kathy Gouldson kathygouldson@bigpond.com)

Echo Valley South Park (Ramsay St)
(2nd, 4th & 5th Saturday each month from 9am)

This small group is active 2 or 3 Saturdays each month from 9am – 12 noon.

(Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077)

Friends of the Escarpment Parks Toowoomba Inc.

Newsletter Editor Greg Lukes

glukes@bigpond.com

0428 288 077



**You are invited to check out our parks and progress (See Parkcare Groups)
Would you like to support FEP? Membership is only \$5 per year (\$10/Family)**



The
**Escarpment
Park Friend**
Jul – Aug 2014

Hugh Krenske 4635 1758

info@fep.org.au

www.fep.org.au

FEP, Caring for Toowoomba's Bushlands

In this issue-

- **FEP Membership Now Due**
- **MDA Volunteers**
- **National Tree Day – Jubilee Park**
- **Duggan Park**
- **Bush Treats – Wombat Berry Vine**
- **Weed Watch – Caper Spurge**
- **FEP Annual General Meeting**
- **Youth Leading the World**
- **FEP Committee Meeting**
- **Parkcare Groups**

FEP Membership Now Due

FEP memberships are due 1st July.

Your subscription will help us to continue our activities promoting and maintaining healthy native environmental parks in our region. Enclosed is an application form.

We offer two payment options.

Payment by post & Payment on line.

MDA Volunteers

We have had the opportunity to access a group of volunteers from Toowoomba's Multicultural Development Association (MDA).

The project aim is to introduce new asylum seekers now living in town to get to know our FEP members, understand the environment and assist with our activities. The initial trial consisted of two activities each week for three weeks. Mondays at Redwood Park and Wednesdays at Hartmann Reserve. The first group have now finished their introduction to our bushland parks and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The event concluded with a tour of Redwood Park lead by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff.

National Tree Day

National Tree Day

this year will be at **Jubilee Park Sunday 3rd August** from 9:30am till 1:30pm. Jubilee Park access Coventry Court off the northern end of Mackenzie Street, Mt Lofty.

The event will include the planting of native species along a gully at the top end of Jubilee Park adjacent to Coventry Court. This gully has been cleared of exotic grasses in preparation for the event.

Limited parking is available in Coventry Crt. Parking along Mackenzie Street is available. Alternative parking is also available along Piccadilly Court, accessed from Harvey Street via Sherwood Street.

Richmond Birdwing Vines for your home will be available to purchase for a nominal price.

Attendees will be invited to join a regular parkcare group for this area.



The intention is to remove more of the exotic weeds and grasses, replacing them with native rainforest species from and suitable for the local area. This also has the added advantage of reducing the bush fire threat to residents living in the area.

Toowoomba Toyota is a major sponsor for this event and has kindly offered to host a BBQ lunch for participants.

Please advise numbers attending. RSVP FEP before Wednesday 30th July by email to info@fep.org.au with your name and numbers for the BBQ.

Duggan Park

J.E. Duggan Park is located at the corner of Leslie and Collier Streets Rangeville. At just eight hectares (20 acres) it is one of Toowoomba's smaller bushland parks positioned on the edge of the escarpment with views to Table Top and beyond.



The View of Table Top from Duggan Park

The park is a rejuvenation area for local eucalypt forest containing native vines and rainforest understory. It is a good spot for kids and novice bushwalkers. There is an 800m walking track starting at the gate following the full perimeter of the park.

In 1999, FEP lead by John Swarbrick initiated and worked with Toowoomba City Council to plant a very successful Millennium Forest in a disused quarry which forms an extension to Duggan Park. The Millennium Forest was completed by the turn of the century and is now well established bushland. It is home to many species of birds and a colony of wallabies.



Spotted Pardalote at Duggan Park

Photos Judith Gray

beyondourpatch.blogspot.com.au/2012/09/fathers-day-bush-walk-at-je-duggan-park.html

Duggan Park was named after the former Labor Opposition leader John (Jack), Edmund, Duggan who represented the local area for over 30 years.

Jack Duggan was born December 30, 1910 at Maree, South Australia. Orphaned in 1921, he came to Toowoomba in 1922 to join his brothers and sisters. He began his political career when he became Secretary of the Toowoomba Trades and Labour Council at 21. He was elected Toowoomba Branch president of the Australian Labor Party at 22.

Jack married in 1935 and had 2 children. In 1935 he entered State Parliament as the Member for Toowoomba aged only 25 and was a Cabinet Minister at 37 and Deputy Premier at 40. After serving in World War II, he was appointed to Cabinet as Transport Minister. It was during his 10 years as Transport Minister that he made his greatest contribution by modernising Queensland's rail system.

Mr Duggan was Deputy Premier at the time of the major Labor Party split in 1957. He succeeded Vince Gair as ALP Parliamentary leader and was State Opposition leader when he resigned from politics in 1968. He was elected to Toowoomba City Council in 1970, becoming Deputy Mayor after the next election and was Mayor in 1981 but did not seek re-election in 1982. He was patron of many organizations. Jack passed away June 19, 1993 aged 82 and is buried in the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery.

FEP has now restarted parkcare activities in Duggan Park the **first Saturday each month** from 8am till 11am. The group meet at the main gate near the corner Leslie and Collier Sts, Rangeville.

Rod Spalding is the coordinator and can be contacted on 0418 710 232. To assist in the bush sturdy foot wear (covered shoes or work boots) are required and we strongly recommend appropriate sun and abrasion protection in the form of broad brim hat, long sleeved shirts and long trousers. Please also bring drinking water and a snack. Full training will be provided.

Bush Treats

Wombat Berry *Eustrephus latifolius*

Wombat Berry is an evergreen vine native to Malaysia, the Pacific Islands and eastern Australia. It occurs in sclerophyll forest (type of vegetation that has hard leaves), woodland, heath, gallery forest (a narrow strip of forest along the banks of a watercourse through open country) and on the margins of rainforest.

The leaves are variable in shape, elliptic to linear, 3-10 cm long and 3-35 mm wide. All leaf veins are equally distinct. Flowers are pink to mauve or white. The globose capsule (a container the shape of a sphere or ball) is 1cm diam., yellow-orange, with numerous black seeds set in a white aril (fleshy and usually brightly coloured cover that partially or entirely envelopes the seeds of some plants).

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eustrephus



Wombat berry fruit

Photo: Robert Whyte (SOWN)

Wombat berry is a wiry vine which trails over low branches or across the ground. The berries ripen from green to orange, splitting to display shiny black seeds. **The fresh burst berries contain a tiny amount of crisp white pulp (aril), which was eaten by Indigenous people.** The roots swell into small earthen tubers, 1-3cm long, which taste sweet and juicy.

Tim Low

Wild Food Plants of Australia

sportsmancreek.org/index.php/2010/02/wombat-berry-eustrephus-latifolius/

Once split, fresh crisp white pulp is sweet, the orange case is a bit tart and the many seeds are ideally discarded back into the bush to produce more plants for next year. GL

Weed Watch

Caper Spurge *Euphorbia lathyris*

Euphorbia lathyris (Caper Spurge or Paper Spurge) is a species of spurge native to southern Europe, northwest Africa, and eastward through southwest Asia to western China.

It is an erect biennial plant growing up to 1.5 m tall, with a glaucous (waxy) blue-green stem. The leaves are arranged in opposite pairs, and are shaped like a lance head (narrow oval shape tapering to a point at each end), 5–15 cm long and 1-2.5 cm broad, blue-green with a waxy texture and pale greenish-white midrib and veins. The flowers are green to yellow-green, 4mm diameter, with no petals. The seeds are green ripening brown or grey, produced in globular clusters of three seeds compressed together.



Euphorbia lathyris - caper spurge

All parts of the plant, including the seeds and roots are poisonous. Handling may cause skin irritation as the plant produces latex.



en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euphorbia_lathyris

Please let us know if you find caper spurge in a garden or in the bush. We have someone looking for plant material. (glukes@bigpond.com)

Compiled by Greg Lukes (FEP)